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Isaiah 46:9-10

9 Remember the former things of old:
for I am God, and there is none else;
I am God, and there is none like me,
10 declaring the end from the beginning,
and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,
saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

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2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Proverbs 18:13

13 He that <u>answereth a matter before he heareth</u> it, it is folly and shame unto him.

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, <u>I am the way, the truth, and the life:</u> no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.



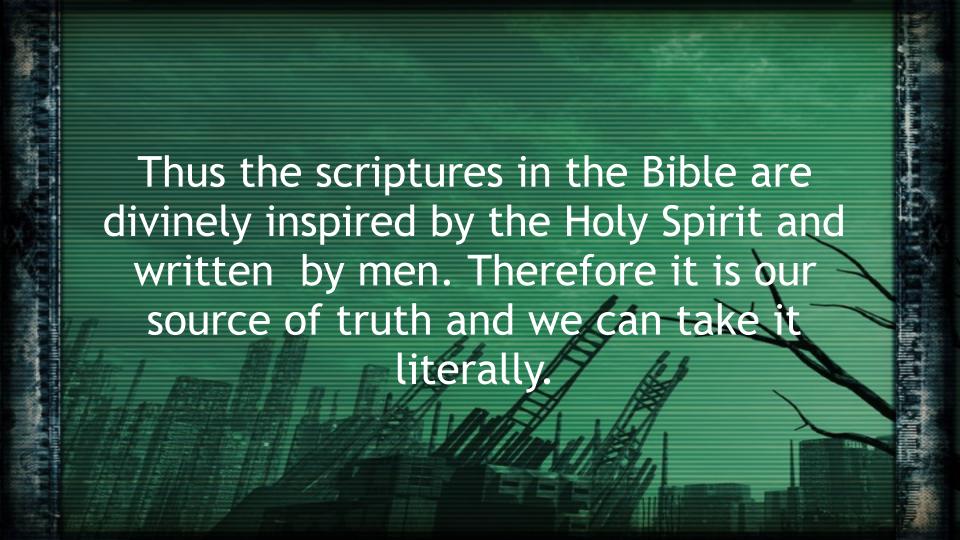
Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

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2 Peter 1:21

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.



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Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

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22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

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23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

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Israel

Who do you say "Israel" is?

We have a Identity Crisis in the church

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Regardless of ones background, Jew or gentile, our goal in this teaching is to show how there is ONE God, ONE body, ONE faith! The time will soon come when He will gather us all together as ONE flock, and He will be our Shepherd.

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Because we believe this teaching is so important and vital to understand, we will walk through this teaching in a systematic form. Our goal is to explain the history found in the Scriptures that we believe has been overlooked or just ignored by many today.

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Matthew 15:24

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

Part One: The Greatest
LOVE STORY NEVER TOLD

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One KINGDOM Becomes TWO

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His True Love LEAVES A Divorce Is DECREED

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Yet HE Longs...For Her RETURN...But HIS very OWN LAW...Forbids Their REMARRIAGE...It's Been Called For Ages...

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The MYSTERY Of The GOSPEL

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The Two Kingdoms
RETURNING...
As The One
OLIVE TREE

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The Lost Sheep

There have been many assumptions as to who or what Israel is. Many would say it's a small country in the middle East. Others say it's another name for the Jews. Yet still others say that it's now the church. While these answers may have an element of truth to them, they are still lacking the full picture as to what the Scriptures give us in recognizing the true Biblical Israel.

Israel ended up being divided in two with a northern and southern kingdom. In fact, after some time, these two kingdoms were both banished from their land and taken into captivity. The northern kingdom was taken into Syria and the southern kingdom into Babylon.

Then, only the southern kingdom, the majority of it anyway, returned to its land. The Scriptures normally define the Northern Kingdom as the "House of Israel" and the Southern Kingdom as the "House" of Judah". However, at times, "House of Israel" or just "Israel" can refer to both.



A Kingdom Divided

Northern Kingdom
"House of Israel"

Southern Kingdom

"House of Judah"

Understanding the division of Israel is paramount and absolutely foundational. When one comes to this understanding, the Bible becomes self-explanatory and their comprehension of the Scriptures will go beyond what has ever been imagined. Even illustrations like that of the prodigal son will reveal what has been missed for all these years. Even the two sticks that come together in Ezekiel 37.





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As we read the Scriptures concerning the House of Israel and the House of Judah, we simply assume that it is in reference to all 12 tribes of Israel every time. Yet, this is not always the case.

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The Scriptures are quite clear in distinguishing these divisions of Israel as two separate entities, kingdoms or nations. The question is ... How is this relative to us today? And the answer? ... More than you can imagine.

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Isaiah 1:18

¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Ask yourselves the question ... "Am I willing to reason with the Scriptures or am I wanting to debate my own perspective?"

Are you willing to examine the Scriptures from the view point that some of your existing beliefs COULD be wrong? Could you actually entertain the thought that something you have believed in for years ... may not be true? This is difficult, especially for pastors, but it is something that needs to be honestly addressed.

UNDERSTANDING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING ISAIAH 46:10

"Am I willing to reason with the Scriptures or am I wanting to debate my own perspective?"

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Isaiah 1:18

""Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD...

During the early days of the New Testament times, only the Old Testament existed. So, when the New Testament was being written, they only had one source to explain themselves. One source to give the definitions to the words and phrases they were using. One source to put to the test all that was being written, the Old Testament, or what they called the Tanakh.

UNDERSTANDING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING ISAIAH 46:10

Just as the Bereans tested everything Paul said to the Scriptures, we need to do the same to our own beliefs.

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Acts 17:10-11

10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 Now these were more nobleminded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

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In order for us to truly understand the full context of the New Testament, we have to obtain a firm foundation and understanding, that which can only be grounded in the Old Testament.

It's the Old Testament that serves as the road map to guide us through all that came to be called the New Testament and that which is still yet to come. If we are holding to something that does not line up in agreement with the Old Testament, then we are saying that God's Word contradicts itself and it shows that we are off the map and going in our own direction.

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So let us begin examining the Scriptures to enable us to honestly determine where we are with our understanding concerning the full context of the Scriptures.

For us to best understand why and how this topic of Israel being divided is 50 relevant to us today, let's go back to Abraham, the one noted as the "father of the faith." Starting with Abraham, we'll begin a broad overview of history through the Scriptures to show us how we arrived to where we are today. In so doing, we'll better understand what lies ahead of us in the future.

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God said to Abraham...

Genesis 22:17-18

If will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, sand through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

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Here we see that Abraham's descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Not too hard to grasp. Let's continue forward with what was promised to his son Isaac. We must note here that Isaac was the second born to Abraham, yet he received the first born blessing...

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To Isaac, God said...

Genesis 26:4-5

All will make your descendants as <u>numerous as the stars in the sky</u> and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws.

Here we see virtually the same promise given to Isaac as Abraham. Again, not too hard to grasp. Let's move forward with Isaac's son Jacob. We must note here, like with Isaac, that Jacob was the second born, yet received the first born blessing...

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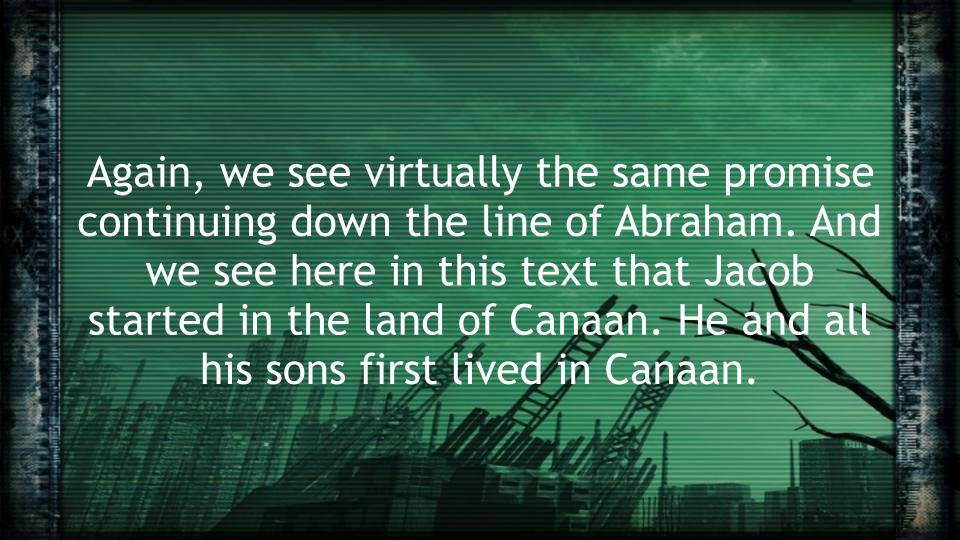
To Jacob, God said...

Genesis 28:13-15

There above it stood (Yahweh) the LORD, and he said: "I am (Yahweh) the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

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Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."



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Jacob's name was eventually changed to Israel. Genesis 35:10

God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." So he named him Israel.

The name "Israel" means "He that strives with God." Not striving with God in the sense of opposing God but rather in the sense of serving and assisting God.

It was through Israel's twelve sons that the promise given to him, his father Isaac, and grandfather Abraham, began to take root.



Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulon, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, and Benjamin.

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Because of a famine, Israel moves all of his family FROM the land of Canaan to the land of Goshen, just outside of Egypt.

It is here where Israel blesses the sons of Joseph. Israel even declares that Joseph's sons are to be treated as his...

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Genesis 48:5

And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

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When blessing the two boys, as the pattern has shown, his first-born blessing goes to the second born Ephraim and not to the first-born Manasseh...

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Genesis 48:17-19

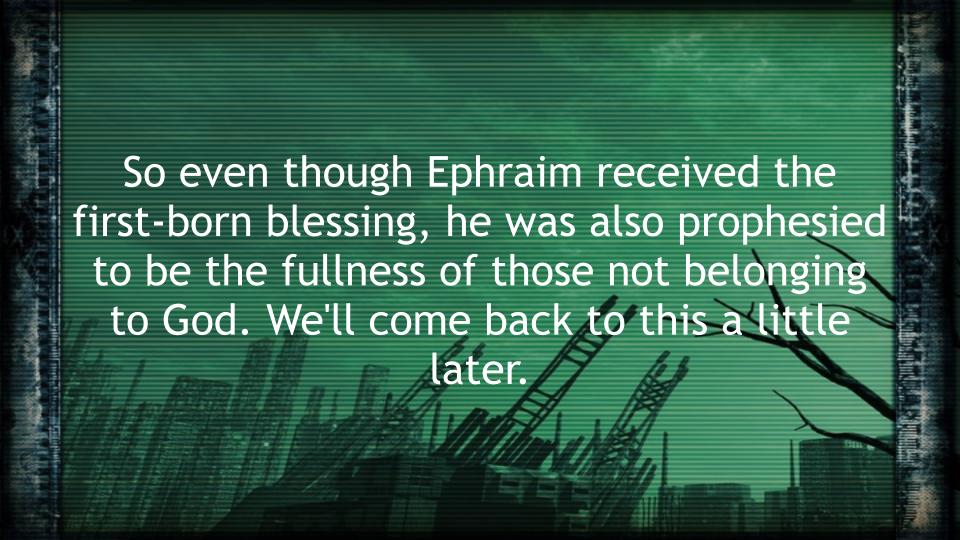
Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

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But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."



And so here is where things begin to get interesting. Israel said that Ephraim will become a "multitude of nations." The Hebrew for "multitude of nations" is "melo ha' goyim," meaning "the fullness of the nations." From a Greek mindset, "nations" means "gentiles." The name "gentile" simply means "of the nations" or "not of the ONE nation - Israel." From God's perspective, you are either of His nation (singular) or you are of the nations (plural).





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While in Egypt, the Israelites continued to increase...

Genesis 47:27

Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.

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And after Joseph died they were enslaved... Exodus 1:8-11

Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us.

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"Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." "So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

The rest of the book of Exodus details how Yahweh delivers His people from Egypt through Moses and uses Moses to lead them. It was at this time that the Law was given in written form to His people on Mt. Sinai. His people being all twelve tribes of Israel and the aliens who had left and joined with them. Yet they rebelled against God and did not have the faith to take the promised land. Thus, they were not allowed to enter into it...

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Numbers 14:20-23

Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of (Yahweh) the LORD fills the whole earth, not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times — not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers.

No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

It was only the children of this generation that was to enter the promise land under Joshua. Just before entering the promise land we see God adding a NEW covenant to that which was given to the generation before. What exactly is this NEW covenant?

The covenant that came to the first generation under Moses was not so much the instructions but rather the blessings and curses that would result, pending the obedience or disobedience to those instructions. And we see that this NEW covenant is simply an expansion of those blessings and curses.

A New Covenant Given To Israel The Covenant at Horeb The Covenant at Moab **Deuteronomy 29:1** 29 These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the sons of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He had made with them at Horeb.

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First, compare what Moses says to this next generation...

Deuteronomy 4:7-8

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way (Yahweh) the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

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In this same chapter he gives a brief summary of the added covenant being given to them.

Deuteronomy 4:25-27

⁵⁵After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time — if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of (Yahweh) the LORD your God and provoking him to anger,

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²⁶I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will

not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. (Yahweh) The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which (Yahweh) the LORD will drive you.

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Matthew 5:17-18

17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

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Toward the end of Deuteronomy we see him giving another view, the blessings...

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

all his commands I give you today, (Yahweh) the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey (Yahweh) the LORD your God: ...

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Then after he gives the blessings that would come from the obedience, he then gives curses that would come resulting from disobedience ...

Deuteronomy 28:15

¹⁵However, if you do not obey (Yahweh) the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: ...

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After explaining the curses, He THEN explains how this is an added covenant with them...

Deuteronomy 29:1

These are the terms of the covenant (Yahweh) the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.